

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 MCT-01 /064 W

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FM AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1300

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L HERMOSILLO 219

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PINT, PINS, ASEC, ETRN, MX, US

SUBJECT : TWENTYTHIRD OF SEPTEMBER COMMUNIST LEAGUE

ACTIVITIES IN SONORA INVOLVING IN-BOND

SUBSIDIARY OF AMERICAN CORPORATION

1. CONGEN WAS INFORMED JUNE 1 OF DISTRIBUTION OF 23
SEPTEMBER COMMUNIST LEAGUE PROPAGANDA AT GATES OF CINCINATI
ELETZRIC - SONORA PLANT AT WESTERN OUTSKIRTS OF HERMOSILLO
WHEN EMPLOYEES WERE LEAVING WORK AT FIVE P.M. MAY 31, 1977.
THE PLANT'S GENERAL MANAGER, GALE O. THOMPSON, VISITED
CONGEN AND DESCRIBED INCIDENT AS FOLLOWS: WHEN PRODUCTION
LINE WORKERS (MOSTLY FEMALE) WERE DEPARTING AT FIVE P.M.
THROUGH THE SINGLE EXIT TO THE NEARBY HIGHWAY, THEY PASSED
BETWEEN TWO MALE YOUTHS, DESCRIBED ONLY AS LONG-HAIRED,
WHO PASSED OUT COPIES OF ISSUE NO. 30 OF APRIL 1977 OF
"CLANDESTINE PERIODICAL" ENTITLED "MADERA" PUBLISHED BY THE
23 SEPTEMBER COMMUNIST LEAGUE. AN AUTOMOBILE, DESCRIBED
ONLY AS GREEN IN COLOR, AND NOT OTHERWISE IDENTIFIED, WAS
PARKED NEARBY. TWO OTHER MALE YOUTHS REMAINED SEATED IN THE
AUTOMOBILE. AT LEAST ONE OF THE WITNESSES WHO REPORTED THE
INCIDENT TOTHOMPSON RPT TO THOMPSON SAID HE WAS CERTAIN THE
OCCUPANTS OF THE AUTOMOBILE WERE ARMED WITH SUB-MACHINEGUNS.
AFTER DISTRIBUTING THEIR STOCK OF PROPAGANDA, THE FOUR YOUTHS
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DEPARTED WITHOUT INCIDENT. THE PUBLICATION CONTAINS NO MATERIAL
RELATING SPECIFICALLY RPT SPECIFICALLY TO SONORA.

2. I CALLED ON SONORA STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL ADOLFO IBARRA
SELDNER, AND DESCRIBED THE INCIDENT AS REPORTED BY THOMPSON,
NOTING THAT THOMPSON WAS FAMILIAR WITH THE CIUDAD JUAREZ
INCIDENT WHERE AN AMERI CAN RPT AMERICAN PLANT MANAGER WAS

SHOT TO DEATH BY A GROUP DISTRIBUTING SIMILAR PROPAGANDA,
AND THAT THOMPSON WAS CONCERNED BY THE SAFETY OF HIS STAFF
AND HIMSELF.

3. STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL, WHO WAS JOINED BY CHIEF OF THE
STATE JUDICIAL RPT JUDICIAL POLICE MAJOR LUKEN, CONFIDENTIALLY
INFORMED ME THAT ONE OR MORE "COMMANDOS" OF THE 23 SEPTEMBER
GROUP HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN SONORA IN RECENT MONTHS, PRIMARILY
DISTRIBUTING PROPAGANDA AMONG FACTORY WORKERS. SUCH INCIDENTS
ARE KNOWN TO HAVE OCCURRED IN CIUDAD OBREGON, NOGALES, AND
CANANEA, AS WELL AS AT SEVERAL PLANTS IN HERMOSILLO. IN SOME
CASES, THE "COMMANDOS" FORCED THEIR WAY INTO THE PLANTS AT
GUNPOINT. THE JUDICIAL POLICE, WHICH HAS BEEN INVESTIGATING
THESE INCIDENTS, WILL BE JOINED SHORTLY BY AN EXPERT IN
COUNTER TERRORISM FROM GOBERNACION AT MEXICO CITY, IDENTIFIED
AS CAPTAIN CERVANTES, WHO WILL FORM A SMALL TEAM OF INVESTIG-
ATORS THAT WILL OPERATE AGAINST THE 23 SEPTEMBER GROUP IN
SONORA.

4. THE MEXICAN OFFICIALS WERE ALSO ADVISED OF THOMPSON'S CONCERN
WITH THE PROCEDURE CURRENTLY FOLLOWED FOR HANDLING HIS PLANT'S
WEEKLY PAYROLL. THIS PAYROLL, WHICH EXCEEDS A HALF MILLION
PESOS, AND IS PAID IN CASH AS REQUIRED BY MEXICAN LAW, IS
TRANSFERRED UNPROTECTED BETWEEN THE BANK AND PLANT, AND WOULD
BE RELATIVELY EASY TO AMBUSH. THE CHIEF OF THE JUDICIAL PLICE
RPT POLICE WAS INSTRUCTED BY THE AG TO INVESTIGATE ARRANGEMENTS
FOR PROTECTING TGE RPT THE PAYROLL DURING TRANSFER. IT WAS AGREED
THAT THOMPSON AND LUKEN SHOULD MEET SHORTLY AT THE CONGEN TO
DISCUSS THESE ARRANGEMENTS, IN ORDER TO AVOID PUBLIC CONTACT
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BETWEEN THOMPSON AND THE POLICE. MEANWHILE, THOMPSON HAS BEEN
URGED TO TAKE PASSIVE MASURES RPT MEASURES FOR HIS PERSONAL
PROTECTION BY VARYING HIS DAILY ROUTINE, MODIFYING HIS TRAVEL
ROUTE FROM HOME TO PLANT, HE HAS READ "COUNTERING TERRORISM"
ON SECURITY SUGGESTIONS FOR US BUSINESSMEN WHICH WAS PROVIDED
TO HIS COMPANY BY THIS OFFICE SOME MONTHS AGO.

5. CE-SONORA IS THE ONLY AMERICAN IN-BOND INDUSTRY NOW ACTIVE IN
HERMOSILLO. FIRST ESTABLISHED SOME THREE YEARS AGO, IT HAS
GRADUALLY GROWN TO OVER 700 EMPLOYEES. IT ASSEMBLES PORTABLE
RADIO COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT UNDER CONTRACTS WITH THE U.S.
ARMY. IN ADDITION TO GENERAL MANAGER THOMPSON THERE ARE SIX
AMCITS AMONG THE PLANT'S MANAGERIAL AND ENGINEERING STAFF.
THOMPSON AND THREE OTHERS HAVE FAMILIES HERE.
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